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DTR-4410

2 January 1970

**MEMORANDUM FOR :** Chief, CIA Historical Staff

**SUBJECT:** The CIA Historical Program

**REFERENCE:** Your Memorandum Dated 12 December 1969  
on the Same Subject

I find the statement attached to the referent memorandum to be a good paper but I must take exception to that part of the second sentence in the top paragraph of page 2 which reads as follows: "The Chief and Deputy Chief have direct access to the records of the directorates essential to the writing of overall and directorate history". I believe that the exception I am taking to the quoted statement, even as later amended by you in your conversation with [REDACTED] may also be shared by the Science and Technology Directorate. I cannot in good conscience permit direct access to the "records" of this Directorate because some of these records could not be made available even though they may have been consulted or screened by the writers. Therefore, I suggest that the part of the sentence in question be rephrased to reflect that in exceptional cases the Chief of the CIA Historical Staff could address himself to the Deputy Director concerned for permission to see specific directorate records.

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/s/ Thomas H. Karamessines  
Thomas H. Karamessines  
Deputy Director for Plans

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Approved For Release 2001/03/06 : CIA-RDP83-00764R000300120004-3

12 December 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Plans  
THROUGH : Chairman, CS Historical Board  
SUBJECT : The CIA Historical Program

1. The attached statement is sent you pursuant to your request for the "ground rules" of the CIA Historical Program. It is routed through the Chairman of the CS Historical Board, who participated in our discussion of the Program, on 23 October so that any comments he may wish to make can reach you at the same time as the attached document.

2. The statement emphasized the all-Agency and unified character of the CIA Historical Program. It is viewed as one program, in which the parts - over-all history and directorate history - are brought together in the CIA Historical Staff, with the Chief of the Historical Staff charged with the responsibility for the achievement of the Program, and with Chief and Deputy Chief giving direction and guidance to the entire effort. Within a directorate day-to-day management of the program is the responsibility of the directorate. Dissemination of the histories is controlled by the components that produced them.

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H. M. Ehrmann

Chief, CIA Historical Staff

Attachment

Distribution:

Orig & 1 - Addressee

- ✓ 1 - Chairman, CS Historical Board
- 1 - Deputy Chief, CIA Historical Staff

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10 December 1969

### The CIA Historical Program

The CIA Historical Program is an all-Agency program under the direction of the CIA Historical Staff. It includes an overall program and a program for each of the four directorates.

The overall program is concerned with the role of the DCI in the intelligence community and as head of the Central Intelligence Agency, with the history of the Office of the DCI and of components of the DCI Area, and with the overall history of each directorate. The directorate programs deal with the components of each directorate, with their structure, organization, activities, and operations; and emphasize policy decisions, methods and techniques, and causes and significance of what occurred. While the treatment is mainly historical and stresses change over time, it includes also analysis and description.

Currently, the Historical Program consists of a catch-up task and an ongoing, continuing effort, in which 1965 marks the approximate dividing line between the two. Completion of the overtaking part of the program has been set for the end of the calendar year 1971, by the Executive Director-Comptroller. Thereafter the time lag between the latest events mentioned in a history and the date of publication is to be kept at three or four years.

The Chief of the Historical Staff is responsible to the Executive Director-Comptroller for the achievement of the program as a whole. The realization of the overall or top level history is the direct responsibility of the Chief and Deputy Chief. For the programs within the directorates, the Chief and Deputy Chief share responsibility with the historical officers and the historical boards of the directorates.

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the Chief in the work of the Staff. He brings the point of view of the Historical Staff to his directorate. Likewise, he brings the point of view of his directorate to the Historical Staff. This function of serving as a channel of communication between Historical Staff and directorate he shares with the chairman of the historical board.

Writers of the overall history of the Agency have access to DDP records necessary for their work through the Chairman of the CS Historical Board. This procedure applies also to permission to interview and debrief DDP personnel.

In addition to the historical officers, the Historical Staff includes a Documents Officer, who is in charge of the Master Source Index, and counsels historical writers on the records and literature related to their assignments. The Documents Officer is aided in the development and maintenance of this Index and in giving advice and guidance by two assistants, who are general intelligence officers. The Documents Officer also maintains a collection of finished overall histories of the Agency, a small working collection of basic Agency documents required for reference purposes, and a selected number of historical sources which other Agency components have not chosen to preserve in their own records management programs.

The Master Source Index was originally a Clandestine Service Index. It is now being expanded into an all-Agency Index. Access to it is limited to the Chief, Deputy Chief, Documents Officer, and the assistants of the Documents Officer. Historical officers and other members of the Historical Staff not included in the above list do not have access to the Index. The Documents Officer, because of the sensitivity of many of the materials in his Index, must be acceptable to all four directorates.

There is also on the Historical Staff, a Senior Editor, who is responsible for the development of a uniform publication format and for the maintenance of editorial standards. He is senior to other editors in the Program and is available to counsel and assist them. He has access to the work of historical writers in both the overall and directorate programs, except that in the case of highly sensitive materials in a directorate program, access will require the permission of the chairman of the historical board of the relevant directorate.

Until recently there were two editors in the Clandestine Service program. At present there is but one, and a second editor is needed. So far the other directorates have not had their own full-time editors.

A history is regarded as complete when it is accepted by the producing component, the responsible directorate, and the Historical Staff. Thus a history in the program of one of the directorates must be approved by the historical officer of the component, its operating official, the directorate historical officer and the Chief of the Historical Staff. The historical officer of the component reviews the study chiefly for its accuracy and adequacy as a history of the component. The historical officer of the directorate compares the study with other histories in the directorate program and also reviews the study as a contribution to the history of the directorate and for its potential contribution to the overall history of the Agency. The Chief of the Historical Staff evaluates the project for the adequacy with which it recounts the history of the subject, as well as for its contribution to the history of the directorate and the Agency. He also reviews the history for organization, clarity, gaps in reporting, emphasis on the significant, and adequacy of documentation.

While the primary concern of the Historical Staff is with the writing and publication of histories in an all-Agency program that includes overall and directorate histories, this is not all that concerns it. The Historical Staff is interested also in the identification of records having a historical value, and in their retention, preservation, and speedy retrieval. To this end it works with records management officers and historical officers of components to ensure that valuable historical records are not destroyed. The Historical Staff serves as the adviser and counsellor to the Agency on historical subjects, and as requested, provides support on historical matters of interest to the Agency.

Howard M. Ehrmann  
Chief, CIA Historical Staff